

Application No. 10/667,268

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for extending the lifetime of a photoreceptor belt, wherein a spring-loaded mechanism supplies a force to a tensioning member that tensions the belt when in its operational position inside of a printing device, comprising reducing the tension in the belt by substantially completely removing the force supplied by the spring-loaded mechanism from the tensioning member when the printing device enters an idle state without substantially completely removing the tension in the belt.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the tension in the belt is reduced manually.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the tension in the belt is reduced automatically.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining that the printing device is in an idle state a fixed period of time after the last job has printed.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the tension in the belt is reduced to a reduced tension that is greater than zero but less than the full operating tension.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5, wherein the reduced tension is sufficient to prevent the surface of the belt from contacting other components inside the printing device.

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7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, further comprising increasing the tension in the belt to an operational tension when the printing device enters an operational state.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An endless belt tensioning apparatus, wherein the belt is wrapped around a support apparatus including at least one support for the belt, a tensioning member, and a biasing means acting on the tensioning member, the tension control apparatus comprising:

a frame connected to the support apparatus;

a cam connected to the frame;

a first lever arm having first and second ends;

wherein the biasing means includes a first spring-loaded mechanism for providing a biasing force and a first sleeve for transmitting the biasing force to the tensioning member,

wherein the first lever arm is pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot point between the first and second ends of the first lever arm,

wherein the first end of the first lever arm is positioned such that when the cam is rotated, the cam causes the first lever arm to pivot about the pivot point such that the second

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end of the first lever arm engages the first sleeve of the biasing means such that the biasing force from the first spring-loaded mechanism is no longer transmitted to the tensioning member.

15. (ORIGINAL) The tension control apparatus of claim 14, wherein the belt is a photoreceptor belt.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The tension control apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a second lever arm having first and second ends,

wherein the biasing means includes a second spring-loaded mechanism for providing a second biasing force and a second sleeve for transmitting the second biasing force to the tensioning member,

wherein the second lever arm is pivotally connected to the frame at a pivot point between the first and second ends of the second lever arm,

wherein the first end of the second lever arm is positioned such that when the cam is rotated, the cam causes the second lever arm to pivot about the pivot point such that the second end of the second lever arm engages the second sleeve of the biasing means such that the biasing force from the second spring-loaded mechanism is no longer transmitted to the tensioning member.

18. (CANCELED)

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the force supplied by the spring-loaded mechanism from the tensioning member is removed such that only gravity and the belt supply force to the tensioning member.